accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Katsuhiro Arai on June 8, 2006.

The claims have been amended as follows:

Claims 17 and 18 have been canceled.

Claim 15, line 6: The last word [whrein] has been deleted and replaced with the word -- wherein --.

The specification has been amended as follows:

Abstract, line 12: The carriage return after the first sentence has been deleted to produce a single paragraph.

KM 7/20/06